

Easter: Hope For Here... And For Heaven

*"Simplify Your Life", Part 1 of 5
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*"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life."
(Proverbs 13:12, NIV)*

*"Unrelenting disappointment leaves you heartsick, but a sudden good break
can turn life around."
(Proverbs 13:12, The Message)*

I) ALL THE HOPE WE NEED IS FOUND IN EASTER

Our Three Greatest Needs Can Be Satisfied By Easter

1) Easter offers us a LIVING HOPE for the everyday of life.

*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."
(1 Peter 1:3, NIV)*

2) Easter offers us a SUSTAINING HOPE for the trials of life.

"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed." (1 Peter 1:6-7, NIV)

3) Easter offers us a FUTURE HOPE for the end of life.

*"...and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time... Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."
(1 Peter 1:4-5 & 8-9, NIV)*

II) HOW EASTER HOPE CAN BECOME YOUR HOPE

The Thief On The Cross: A Story Of Hope Fulfilled

"One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

*"Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.""
(Luke 23:39-43, NIV)*

Finding Your Own Personal Hope For Both Here And For Heaven

1) INVITE Jesus Christ into your life by faith alone.

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20, NIV)

"He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him... Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:10 & 12, NIV)

2) ENGAGE your faith so you learn how to grow in hope.

*"Through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might **have hope...** May the **God of hope** fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him..."
(Romans 15:4b & 13a, NIV)*

"And hope does not disappoint us..." (Romans 5:5a, NIV)